

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION  
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION  
(Pre-publication of Notice Statement)

Amend Subsection (b)(156) of Section 7.50,  
Title 14, California Code of Regulations  
Re: Angling Regulations in the Sacramento River

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: March 15, 2004

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

(a) Notice Hearing: Date: March 4, 2004  
Location: Redding

(c) Adoption Hearing: Date: June 25, 2004  
Location: Crescent City

III. Description of Regulatory Action:

(a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:

Current regulations for the upper Sacramento River in the reach between Box Canyon Dam to Lake Shasta allow angling during the general trout season from the last Saturday in April through November 15.

The City of Dunsmuir has proposed opening the upper Sacramento River to zero limit, catch-and-release angling during the normal closure period, November 16 through the last Friday in April.

The Department supports the proposal by the City of Dunsmuir and recommends changing current regulations to allow angling in the Upper Sacramento River from November 16 through the last Friday in April, with a zero bag limit and the use of artificial lures and barbless hooks only.

The local economy receives significant support from income provided by anglers attracted to this popular fishery. Since the river is closed to angling during the winter period, angling-related income for local business owners is drastically reduced. There are few trout angling opportunities in flowing waters during the winter. By opening the identified reach of the Upper Sacramento River to catch-and-release angling, the Commission will provide additional winter-season angling opportunities and some associated economic benefit to local communities

An angler creel survey conducted in 2002 revealed that almost two-thirds of anglers fishing the upper Sacramento traveled (one-way) more than 100 miles. Opening the river to catch-and-release angling may draw a significant number of

anglers to the area, providing a boost to the local economy. Further, opening the river will provide a new and challenging angling opportunity.

The Department has reviewed existing data, and considered potential angler use, catch-rates and possible impacts to the wild trout population. It was determined that under the proposed zero-limit, artificial lure regulation, there would be no significant or measurable impacts to the wild trout population of the upper Sacramento River.

- (b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:  
Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205, 215 and 220, Fish and Game Code.  
Reference: Sections 200, 205, 206, 215 and 316.5, Fish and Game Code.
- (c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change: None.
- (d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change: None.
- (e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:  
Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:  
  
Notice Hearing:      Date: March 4, 2004  
                                 Location: Redding (Commission hearing)  
  
Local Meeting:      Date: March 19, 2004  
                                 Location: Dunsmuir (River Exchange; public meeting.)

#### IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

- (a) Alternatives to Regulation Change: None were identified.
- (b) No Change Alternative: If the proposed changes are not adopted anglers will be prevented from enjoying fishing opportunities. Based on our evaluation and assuming the proposed fishery is catch-and-release (0-limit) and requires barbless, artificial lures, there is no biological justification for the existing seasonal closure.
- (c) Consideration of Alternatives: In view of information currently available, there is no reasonable alternative that would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation change is intended.

#### V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businessmen to Compete with Businesses in Other States: The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed change is expected to improve angler opportunity and provide some economic benefit to the local area.
- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California: The proposed change may prevent some seasonal job-loss in the local area and could create some new jobs.
- (c) Cost Impacts on Private Persons: The Department is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person would necessarily incur in compliance with the proposed action.
- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: A slight increase in warden patrol effort will be required but there will be no increased cost to the Department.
- (e) Other Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- (f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.
- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: None.
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

## **Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview**

Current regulations for the upper Sacramento River in the reach between Box Canyon Dam to Lake Shasta allow angling only during the general trout season from the last Saturday in April through November 15.

The City of Dunsmuir has proposed opening the upper Sacramento River to zero-limit, catch-and-release angling during the normal closure period, November 16 through the last Friday in April.

The Department supports the proposal by the City of Dunsmuir and recommends changing current regulations to allow angling in the Upper Sacramento River from November 16 through the last Friday in April, with a zero bag limit and the use of artificial lures and barbless hooks only.

The Department has reviewed existing data, and considered potential angler use, catch-rates and possible impacts to the wild trout population. It was determined that under the proposed zero-limit, artificial lure regulation, there would be no significant or measurable impacts to the wild trout population of the upper Sacramento River.